AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (**Currently Amended**) A method for sealing a fibre-based material [[(1, 4)]] to a counter-surface to be bonded to the material by melting polymer present at [[the]] a seal point, comprising: ~~wherein~~

~~the sealing is performed by~~ directing a laser beam [[(8)]] through a fibre layer [[(4)]] of the material to a radiation-absorbing pigment disposed in [[the]] a sealing area [[(9)]], ~~with~~ so that polymer present at the seal point ~~the absorptive heat melting the polymer (5, 11, 12, 14, 15)~~ is absorptive-heat-melted and the fibre-based material is sealed to the counter-surface of the material, ~~and generating the sealing, and~~ wherein

a laser source [[(7)]] of the laser beam [[(8)]] is a diode or Nd:YAG laser.

2. (**Currently Amended**) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the fibre-based material is a polymer-coated paper or board having a polymer coating thereon [[(1)]], and

the polymer-coated paper or board is sealed to [[a]] said counter-surface [[(5', 11', 12', 14)]] placed adjacent [[the]] to said polymer coating ~~(5, 11, 12)~~.

3. (Withdrawn - **Currently Amended**) A method as defined in claim 1 or 2, wherein [[a]] the fibre-based material [[(1, 4)]] is sealed to a counter-surface containing polymer placed adjacent the material, such as a polymer film [[(14, 15)]].

4. (**Currently Amended**) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the pigment is included in the fibre-based material [[(1)]] to be sealed.

5. (Withdrawn - **Currently Amended**) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the pigment is included in a member **[[(15)]]** forming the counter-surface, to which the fibre-based material **[[(4)]]** is to be sealed.

6. (Withdrawn - **Currently Amended**) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the pigment **[[(13)]]** is located on the surface of the fibre layer **[[(4)]]**.

7. (Withdrawn - **Currently Amended**) A method as defined in claim 6, wherein the pigment **[[(13)]]** is located under **[[a]]** said polymer coating **[[(12)]]** of a paper or board.

8. (**Currently Amended**) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the pigment is dispersed in a polymer layer **[[(5, 15)]]** of a coating or a film disposed on said fibre-based material.

9. (Withdrawn - **Currently Amended**) A method as defined in claim 8, wherein the pigment is included in the uppermost layer of a multi-layer polymer coating **[[(5, 10)]]** or film disposed on said fibre-based material.

10. (Withdrawn - **Currently Amended**) A method as defined in claim 8, wherein the pigment is included in an inner layer of a multi-layer polymer coating **[[(5, 11)]]** or film disposed on said fibre-based material.

11. **(Currently Amended)** A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the pigment contains carbon black.

12. **(Currently Amended)** A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the fibre-based material is a polymer-coated paper or board **[[(1)]]** is sealed to an adjacent polymer layer **[[(5', 11', 12', 14)]]**.

13. **(Currently Amended)** A method as defined in claim 12, wherein the polymer-coated paper or board **[[(1)]]** is sealed against itself.

14. **(Currently Amended)** A method as defined in claim 13, wherein the method is used for lateral sealing or closing of casing, container or bag packages made of polymer-coated paper or board **[[(1)]]**.

15. (Cancelled)

16. **(New)** A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the laser source of the laser beam is a diode.

17. **(New)** A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the laser source of the laser is a Nd:YAG laser.

18. (**New**) A method as defined in claim 2, wherein the laser source of the laser is a Nd:YAG laser.

19. (**New**) A method as defined in claim 4, wherein the laser source of the laser is a Nd:YAG laser.